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Introduction to Political Science. By JAMES W. GARNER. (New York: American Book Company, 1910. Pp. 616.)

The aim of the author, as stated in the preface, was to write a text book on the state, elementary in character, but "covering a wider range of topics" than is usually dealt with in such works. It includes chapters on the nature, scope and methods of political science; on the essential constituent elements of the state; on the functions and sphere of the state; on citizenship and nationality; on constitutions—their nature, sources and kinds; on the distribution of governmental powers; and on the electorate.

The author does not claim to have treated the subject in an exhaustive manner, but to have "set forth in an elementary way the more important theories concerning the origin, nature, functions and organization of the state, and to analyze and criticize them in the light of the best scientific thought and practice." At the head of each chapter is a selected list of the English, French, German and Italian literature on the subject. The marginal notes, index and the mechanical make-up of the book are satisfactory.

The style of the author and manner of treating the subject is not all that one could desire in a text designed to introduce the college student to the study of political science. The beginner is not apt to be attracted by a book nearly every page of which is made up of short quotations from several different authors, statements of opposing views of writers of all ages and countries, with comments and criticisms thereon, even granted that these are always made "in the light of the best scientific thought and practice." While the author has done remarkably well with this method of treatment, one could wish that he had selected a better method. The student is apt to get the impression from reading this book that Political Science is a science of the opinions and views of publicists, rather than the theory of the state, as the author says it really is.

The title, *Introduction to Political Science*, might indicate that the treatise was intended to be a first book in the study of government, but this is not a necessary inference, since the author uses political science as equivalent to political theory. As a first book in political theory for college students it is probably the most comprehensive, systematic and on the whole the best available, in spite of its obvious defect. In such a course elected by students who have pursued the descriptive courses on government, it will serve a useful purpose, but as a first

book introducing the college student to the study of modern states and their governments it does not commend itself in my judgment. The experience of college instructors in political science, and, particularly, the progress made in teaching the subject in the past ten years must convince us that the proper way to introduce the subject of political science is through the descriptive courses dealing with our own and some selected foreign governments,—elementary courses made as concrete, and given with as little theory as possible. Accordingly, would it not be better to label such texts as this one of Professor Garner's—"Introduction to Political Theory," or simply "Elements of Political Theory"? There ought to be one term consistently used by our publicists to designate the entire field of the science, in its descriptive, historical, theoretical, and legal aspects, and "Political Science" is naturally the proper one to employ. Certainly there can be no good reason why we should continue to use political science in the restricted sense of political theory, as many writers in the past very properly did, when the science treated of nothing but theory.

The judicious temper of the author, his eminent fairmindedness in dealing with the views of others, his painstaking care in collecting his material, and the logical organization of it, are all admirable features of the book. The book is a laborious piece of work, searchingly and thoroughly done, and will find its proper place among the best available college texts on political theory.

WILLIAM A. SCHAPER.

American Government and Politics. By CHARLES A. BEARD.
(New York; The Macmillan Company, 1910. Pp. 772.)

This volume was prepared for the use of college students and citizens wishing a general survey of our political system. In conjunction with a companion volume of *Readings on American Government and Politics*, published a year ago, the work is intended to serve as a basis for an introductory course in the subject.

As indicated in the earlier volume of *Readings*, Professor Beard has not followed traditional methods in the treatment of his subject. The study of government in these volumes is approached not only from the standpoint of an analysis of constitutions, statutes and other well known documents but also from the point of view of the customs, devices and complicated organizations developed to obtain control of public power